THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATIVASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A comprehensive policy package to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, has aready been announced by the Government on 30th August, 2000. The package of measures provides fiscal incentives, for easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Single Business Act for SSI

904. SHRIYADLAPATIVENKAT RAO:
SHRISOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Industry has requested for a Single Business Act to govern Small Sector Industry units;

(b) if so, the points suggested to ensure business development for SSI to attract FDI; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Confederation to Indian Industry (CII) has suggested the following steps for business development for SSIs and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

Business development

(i) Promotion of domestic & international enterprise series of trade fairs;

(ii) Comprehensive policy for investment marketing, brand promotion and overseas market access;

(iii) Thrust on rural Marketing; and

(iv) Extensive usage of e-commerce.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

(i) Promoting Indian SSI Sector as a cost & quality competitive international sourcing point;

(ii) Placing the FDI in the SSI Sector, under the automatic route with enhanced equity cap, subject to the management control vesting with the Indian shareholders, (c) Government already provides financial assistance for participation in international fairs/trade delegation/production of material for overseas publicity, etc. by SSIs. Besides, the "Brands Equity Fund"'provides assistance for promotion of Indian Brands in overseas markets and to help project India as a reliable supplier of quality goods and services. In addition, matchmaking of large buyers, both Indian and foreign, with SSIs is promoted through the Sub-Contracting Exchanges in the country.

(c) FDI in the SSI Sector is already under the automatic route with a cap of 24% equity participation. There is no proposal at present to enhance this equity cap.

Shortage of Transponders

905. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether »t is a fact that the country is facing shortage of transponders;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country is also facing severe shortage of C-band transponders;

(c) if so, the reason therefor; and

(d) the number of transponders utilised by the country from 1998 to December, 2001 yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATIVASUNDHARA RAJE): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.